



## Foundation of an initiative for refugees Jugendliche ohne Grenzen NRW & Flüchtlingsrat NRW

In today's world, the theme of flight and asylum is frequently the focus of discussion. People often talk about refugees, but not with them. Self-organised refugee organisations want to change this, making it possible for refugees to speak for themselves and providing information in public on topics such as asylum policy and reasons for fleeing. This checklist was drawn up by the Youth Without Borders initiative, which has been working to promote a strong voice from refugees in public life for many years. As such, this checklist is primarily aimed at political work.

### Before the foundation

From our point of view, it is important that the motivation for the foundation comes from refugees themselves without voluntary workers being the initiators. Furthermore, an initial on-site assessment of the local situation of refugees is important.

- How many refugees are housed and how are they housed?
- Who is responsible for the accommodation and supplies?
- What countries do they come from?
- What languages are required for communication?

### Preparation for the foundation meeting

- Rooms: they should be politically neutral and centrally located.
- Preparation of the invitation: refugees can be supported by voluntary workers. The voluntary workers, however, should be as passive as possible.
  - Refugees: distribute invitations (in the necessary languages) as flyers in the accommodation; in the course of the distribution, the distributors should cover all of the languages that are required. If there are still unanswered questions, these can be clarified directly.
  - Voluntary workers: disburse invitations as flyers in schools, youth centres, welfare associations, churches, etc. In addition, advertising via local media such as radio and daily newspapers.

### Holding the foundation meeting:

- Introduce the people present
- Collect contact details using participant lists
- Take photos of the foundation (ask participants for permission)
- Present local challenges and barriers for refugees
- Present the reasons for these challenges and barriers to the foundation meeting
- Collect ideas and approaches for solutions
- Hand out responsibilities and tasks
- Create information flyers (e.g. e-mail, Facebook or WhatsApp)
- Agree follow-up meetings (the same day of the week and the same time is recommended)





## The foundation is a success – what now?

After the foundation meeting, all participants will be very motivated. Sorting out this motivation properly starting immediately on the next day is the most important thing to do after a foundation meeting. Otherwise, it will quickly fizzle out and disappointment will follow. This is why Youth Without Borders has the following tips for you:

- Publish the press release of the foundation via a daily newspaper and through this, invite other interested parties
- Make contact with the operators and people responsible for the accommodation
- Form a network with aid organisations, societies, welfare associations, anti-fascist groups, parties, etc.
- Plan and carry out campaigns

## What sort of campaigns?

The campaigns should be oriented towards the problems of refugees at a local level. An attempt should be made to raise awareness of the challenges and barriers for refugees and to solve them.

**Important:** many barriers and disadvantages do not just appear at a local level, but also at a federal state/national level. Often, such problems cannot be solved locally, but awareness can be raised about them.

## Examples of campaigns

- Demonstrations
- Podium discussion (podium is occupied with refugees, among others)
- Publication of local grievances in the local press
- Religious celebrations (Christmas, Ramadan and many others) and non-religious celebrations
- Meeting with the city's politicians
- Create and distribute flyers and brochures to do with asylum policies and the causes of people fleeing
- Offering of seminars and workshops at schools and universities

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## Contact details

### Jugendliche ohne Grenzen NRW

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Youth Without Borders NRW is there to answer any questions you have!

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